

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3012

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E.O. 16652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PGOV, PINT, AR

SUBJECT: CALABRO'S STATEMENTS CAUSE SPLIT IN METAL WORKERS UNION

REF: BA-6641

1. RUPTURE BETWEEN METAL WORKERS UNION (UOM) LEADER LORENZO MIGUEL AND BA GOVERNOR CALABRO OVER LATTER'S STATEMENTS TO FOREIGN PRESS (RETEL) HAS CREATED MAJOR SPLIT WITHIN HERETOFORE MONOLITHIC UNION. UOM COMMUNIQUE DENOUNCING CALABRO WAS REJECTED BY 18 OF 50 UOM LOCALS, WHICH PLEDGED SUPPORT FOR CALABRO. THOSE SUPPORTING CALABRO COMPRISE VAST INDUSTRIAL BELT SURROUNDING FEDERAL CAPITAL AND REPRESENT TWO-THIRDS TOTAL UNION MEMBERSHIP. CAPTIAL ITSELF AND MAJORITY OTHER PROVINCIAL LOCALS HAVE THUS FAR REMAINED SILENT. WITHIN NATIONAL UOM DIRECTIVE BOARD, ORGANIZATION SECRETARY DATTEO AND ACTING TREASURER CATTANEO RESIGNED IN SUPPORT FOR CALABRO AND REPUDIATION MIGUEL'S VIRTUAL UNILATERAL PREPARATION OF COMMUNIQUE.

2. PERONIST 62 ORGANIZATIONS ALSO WEAKENED INTERNALLY OVER ISSUE. AN OCT 3 62 ORGANIZATIONS' COMMUNIQUE, PREPARED BY DIRECTIVE BOARD OF WHICH MIGUEL IS SEC GEN, STRONGLY ATTACKED CALABRO, CHARGING HIM WITH "SUBVERSIVE AND GOLPISTA PROBLAMATIONS". VARIOUS UNION AFFILIATES OF 62 ORGANIZATIONS LATER DECRIED FACT THAT COMMUNIQUE WAS ISSUED WITHOUT PRIOR CONSULTATION, AND
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DISASSOCIATED THEMSELVES FROM IT.

3. COMMENT. THIS REPRESENTS FIRST OPEN SPLIT IN UOM IN OVER
30 YEARS. IT COULD ALSO LEAD TO MAJOR SPLIT IN 62 ORGANIZATIONS
WHICH WAS RE-UNIFIED IN 1971 ON INSTRUCTIONS GENERAL PERON.
WHETHER OR NOT MIGUEL SUCCEEDS IN PUTTING DOWN INTERNAL REVOLTS,
PERONIST LABOR MOVEMENT WILL REMAIN FRAGMENTED AS SCRAMBLE FOR
POLITICAL POWER CONTINUES. ITS PROBLEMS IN FACT MIRROR THOSE
OF THE COUNTRY ITSELF.
HILL

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